



FOR RELEASE
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The Rhode Island Job Count Increases for the Eighth Straight Month Jobless Rate Declines in May

“The Rhode Island labor market added jobs for the eighth straight month, which is certainly good news for job seekers,” announced Department of Labor and Training Director Adelita S. Orefice. “The positive jobs report was accompanied by an increase in the number of working Rhode Islanders and a decline in our unemployment rate.”

	<u>May 05</u>	<u>Apr. 05</u>	<u>May 04</u>
Rhode Island	4.5%	4.7%	5.3%*
United States	5.1%	5.2%	5.6%

* Revised

Rhode Island’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May dipped to 4.5 percent, reflecting a drop of two-tenths of a percentage point from April. The number of employed Rhode Island residents climbed by 3,900 over the month, posting its fifth consecutive increase, while the number of unemployed fell by 700 in May to 25,900. A year ago, the

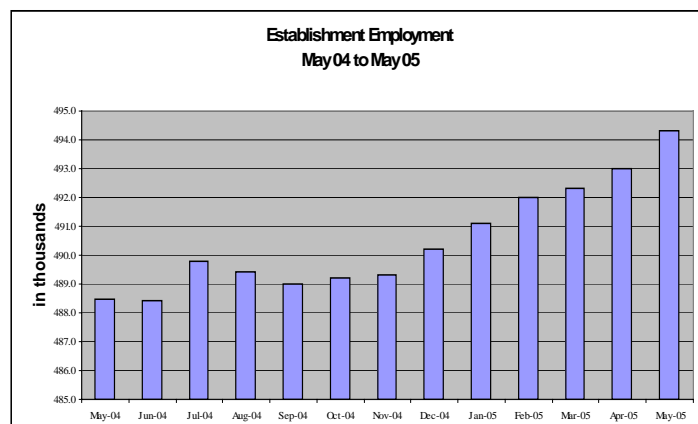
unemployment rate was 5.3 percent, and the number of unemployed stood at 29,700. Nationally, the unemployment rate for May was essentially unchanged at 5.1 percent and was down from 5.6 percent a year earlier. Rhode Island’s unemployment rate has remained below the national average since August 2001.

Rhode Island Job Highlights

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses increased by 1,300 (+0.3%) last month, bringing the May job count to 494,300 (seasonally adjusted). Over-the-month gains in Leisure & Hospitality (+500); Professional & Business Services (+400); Educational & Health Services (+300); Financial Activities (+300); Construction (+300); and Government (+100) offset losses reported in Manufacturing (-500) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-400).

May’s gain of 1,300 jobs marks the eighth consecutive month of employment gains and the largest increase since July 2004. Private sector employment showed continued growth as Professional & Business Services and Educational & Health Services each reported successive monthly job gains of eight and seven months, respectively. Leisure & Hospitality and Financial Activities each reported job gains in five of the last six months.

Over the year, employment was up 5,800 (+1.2%) from the 488,500 jobs reported in May 2004. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Educational & Health Services (+2,900); Professional & Business Services (+2,700); Leisure & Hospitality (+2,300); Financial Activities (+1,000); and Construction (+900). Manufacturing (-2,400) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,200) were the only two sectors to report yearly declines. Government employment increased by 200 jobs over the year.



Establishment Employment

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	May 2005	April 2005	May 2004	April 2005	May 2004
Total NonFarm	494.3	493.0	488.5	1.3	5.8
Construction	21.5	21.2	20.6	0.3	0.9
Manufacturing	54.7	55.2	57.1	-0.5	-2.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	79.4	79.8	80.6	-0.4	-1.2
Financial Activities	35.5	35.2	34.5	0.3	1.0
Professional & Business Services	55.9	55.5	53.2	0.4	2.7
Educational & Health Services	95.7	95.4	92.8	0.3	2.9
Leisure & Hospitality	51.8	51.3	49.5	0.5	2.3
Government	66.0	65.9	65.8	0.1	0.2

Hours and Earnings

In May 2005, the \$13.01 average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers represented a monthly loss of three cents per hour and an over-the-year loss of five cents per hour. Manufacturing employees worked an average of 38.9 hours a week in May, up 0.5 of an hour over the month, but down 0.2 of an hour from last year.

Note: Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised.

The unemployment figures are based largely on a survey of households in Rhode Island and measure the unemployment status of people who live in the state.

The employment figures in the "Rhode Island Job Highlights" section are derived from a survey of businesses in Rhode Island and measure the number of jobs in the state.

**Rhode Island Labor Market Information is available on our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi
The June labor force figures are scheduled to be released on Friday, July 22, 2005.**

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Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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Governor Donald L. Carcieri



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